



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/39
12 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Subcommission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
31 July - 25 August 1995
Item 16 of the provisional agenda

CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Note by the Secretariat

By a letter dated 3 July 1995 addressed to the Chairperson of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva requested that the following information be made available to the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session.

1. In the view of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its twentieth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28), which will be considered by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-seventh session, requires some clarification. It has been noted that the statement made by the observer for the Netherlands in reply to questions raised by Mrs. Palley and Mrs. Warzazi concerning the Netherlands policies on prostitution has been summarized in a single sentence (para. 61 of the report) which does not provide an accurate and complete reflection of the intervention of the observer for the Netherlands.

2. In response to Mrs. Palley's first question, the observer for the Netherlands pointed out that the current Netherlands criminal law provisions on prostitution and procuring are considered outdated and that offenders are prosecuted only for coercive prostitution or exploitation of prostitution of children. Legislation is being prepared which aims at the abolition of the ban on brothels and on procuring and will authorize municipal authorities to issue licences and thus to enable them to exercise a more effective control of exploitation of prostitution which is detrimental to the interests of public order and public health. However, coercive prostitution and exploitation of child prostitution will remain criminal offences and will carry more severe punishment than under the current legislation.

3. With reference to Mrs. Palley's second question, the observer for the Netherlands informed the Working Group that under Netherlands legislation traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution is a criminal offence. The instruments of the aliens legislation (and in future the above-mentioned policy of issuance of licences) make it possible to take measures against exploitation of prostitutes residing illegally in the Netherlands. The observer for the Netherlands gave an outline of existing guidelines for the police aimed at protection of victims of traffic in persons and of activities of private organizations aimed at rehabilitating illegal prostitutes and assisting them in their return to their countries of origin.

4. In reply to Mrs. Warzazi's question (para. 62 of the report), the observer for the Netherlands referred to the assistance provided to prostitutes by municipal public health agencies and he informed the Working Group that the Netherlands authorities expect the above-mentioned abolition of the ban on brothels to increase the effectiveness of measures in the field of public health.
